

MIDLIGE RICHTER LLC  
645 Martinsville Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
(908) 626-0622  
James Richter

GEMINI LAW LLP  
40 W 24th Street, Suite 6N  
New York, NY 10010  
(917) 915-8832  
C. Kyle Musgrove (*pro hac vice*)  
Cindy Chang (*pro hac vice*)

*Attorneys for Defendant  
Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

_____	X
	:
	: Honorable Brian R. Martinotti, U.S.D.J.
	:
	: Civil Action No. 24-CV-7791 (BRM)(CLW)
IN RE SELENIOUS ACID LITIGATION.	: (consolidated)
	:
	: <b>DEFENDANT HIKMA</b>
	: <b>PHARMACEUTICALS USA INC.’S</b>
	: <b>ANSWER, SEPARATE DEFENSES, AND</b>
	: <b>COUNTERCLAIMS (COMPLAINT</b>
	: <b>ORIGINALLY FILED IN 24 CV-11118)</b>
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Defendant Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. (“Hikma”), by and through its undersigned counsel, provide the following answers, separate defenses and counterclaims to the Complaint of patent infringement (“Complaint”) (Civ. No. 24-cv-11118, D.I. 1) of Plaintiff American Regent, Inc., (“ARI” or “Plaintiff”). This pleading is based upon Hikma’s knowledge as to its own

activities, and upon information and belief as to other matters. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(b)(3), Hikma denies all allegations in Plaintiff's Complaint except those admitted specifically below.

### **NATURE OF THIS ACTION**

1. This is an action for patent infringement under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et. seq.*, arising from Hikma's submission to the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") of Abbreviated New Drug Application No. 217680 ("the ANDA") which contains a certification of the type described in Section 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act ("Paragraph IV Certification") seeking approval to engage in the commercial manufacture, use, sale, and/or importation of generic versions of ARI's Selenious Acid products ("the ANDA Products") prior to the expiration of United States Patent No. 12,150,957 ("the '957 patent" or the "Asserted Patent"). As discussed below, this case involves the same ANDA No. 217680 and thus is a related case to *American Regent, Inc. v. Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.*, C.A. No. 24-7803 (D.N.J.) (the "Related Action").

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that it submitted ANDA No. 217680 ("the ANDA") to the FDA seeking approval to engage in the commercial manufacture, use, sale, and/or importation of generic versions of ARI's Selenious Acid products prior to the expiration of the '957 patent. Hikma further admits that Plaintiff's Complaint purports to bring an action for patent infringement under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et. seq.*, but denies that Plaintiff is entitled to relief. Hikma admits that ARI also filed *American Regent, Inc. v. Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.*, C.A. No. 24-7803 (D.N.J.) involving ANDA No. 217680 (the "Related Action"). Hikma otherwise denies any remaining allegations of Paragraph 1.

### **THE PARTIES**

2. ARI is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with a principal place of business at 5 Ramsey Road, Shirley, New York 11967.

**ANSWER:** Upon information and belief, admitted.

3. On information and belief, Hikma is an American corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at 200 Connell Drive, 4th Floor, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits it is an American corporation organized and existing under the

laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at 200 Connell Drive, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et. seq.*, and jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), 2201, and 2202.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma admits that Plaintiff's Complaint purports to bring an action for patent infringement under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et. seq.* Hikma does not contest subject matter jurisdiction for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest subject matter jurisdiction in any other case as to any party. Hikma otherwise denies any remaining allegations of Paragraph 4.

5. On information and belief, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Hikma, under the New Jersey state long arm statute and consistent with due process of law, because Hikma has extensive contacts with the State of New Jersey and regularly does business in this judicial district, including by maintaining a regular and established place of business in New Jersey. Further, Hikma plans to sell the ANDA Products in the State of New Jersey, which provides an independent basis for personal jurisdiction here.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma does not contest personal jurisdiction for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest personal jurisdiction in any other case as to any party. Hikma otherwise denies any remaining allegations of Paragraph 5.

6. This Court further has personal jurisdiction over Hikma because Hikma has purposefully availed itself of the rights and benefits of New Jersey law by engaging in systematic and continuous contact with the State of New Jersey. On information and belief, Hikma is registered to do business in New Jersey under Entity Identification No. 0100487525. On information and belief, Hikma regularly and continuously transacts business within New Jersey, including by making pharmaceutical products for sale in New Jersey and selling pharmaceutical products in New Jersey. On information and belief, Hikma derives substantial revenue from the

sale of those products in New Jersey and has availed itself of the privilege of conducting business within New Jersey.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma does not contest personal jurisdiction for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest personal jurisdiction in any other case as to any party.

7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Hikma because, on information and belief, Hikma derives substantial revenue from directly or indirectly selling generic pharmaceutical products and/or pharmaceutical ingredient(s) used in generic pharmaceutical products sold throughout the United States, including in this judicial district.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma does not contest personal jurisdiction for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest personal jurisdiction in any other case as to any party.

8. On information and belief, Hikma is in the business of, among other things, manufacturing, marketing, importing, offering for sale, and selling pharmaceutical products, including generic drug products, throughout the United States, including in this judicial district. . [sic]

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma does not contest personal jurisdiction for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest personal jurisdiction in any other case as to any party.

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Hikma because, *inter alia*, Hikma has committed an act of patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271(e)(2) and intends a future course of conduct that includes acts of patent infringement in New Jersey. These acts have led and will lead to foreseeable harm and injury to ARI in New Jersey. Further, on information and belief, following approval of the ANDA, Hikma will make, use, import, sell, and/or offer for sale the ANDA Products in the United States, including in New Jersey, prior to the expiration of the Asserted Patent.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma denies the allegations in Paragraph 9.

10. This Court also has personal jurisdiction over Hikma because it has previously availed itself of the legal protections of the State of New Jersey by, among other things, not contesting jurisdiction in this judicial district, and pursuing counterclaims in this judicial district, including in at least *Celgene Corporation v. Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.*, No. 2:21-cv-10398 (D.N.J.); and *Axsome Malta Ltd. et al v. Alkem Laboratories Ltd., et al.*, No. 2:23-cv-20354 (D.N.J.).

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma does not contest personal jurisdiction for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest personal jurisdiction in any other case as to any party.

11. Venue is further proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and/or 1400(b).

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma does not contest venue for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest venue in any other case as to any party. Hikma otherwise denies any remaining allegations of Paragraph 11.

12. On information and belief, venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b) at least because, on information and belief, Hikma submitted the ANDA with a Paragraph IV Certification from its Berkeley Heights, New Jersey place of business and therefore Hikma has committed acts of infringement and has a regular and established place of business in New Jersey for the purposes of venue.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma does not contest venue for the purposes of this action only, and expressly reserves the right to contest venue in any other case as to any party.

13. On information and belief, Hikma has taken steps in New Jersey, including preparing the ANDA and communicating with the FDA regarding the ANDA, that indicate its

intent to market the ANDA Products. As set forth above, on information and belief, if the ANDA is approved, Hikma intends to commit acts of patent infringement in New Jersey, including marketing, distributing, offering for sale, and/or selling the ANDA Products.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma denies the allegations of Paragraph 13.

### **BACKGROUND**

14. ARI holds New Drug Application (“NDA”) No. 209379 for Selenious Acid ((1) eq. 600 mcg Selenium/10 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), (2) eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), and (3) eq. 12 mcg Selenium/2 mL (eq. 6 mcg Selenium/mL)), which was approved by the FDA on April 30, 2019, and which ARI manufactures and sells in this judicial district and throughout the United States.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that the FDA’s website indicates that ARI is the holder of New Drug Application (“NDA”) No. 209379 for Selenious Acid ((1) eq. 600 mcg Selenium/10 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), (2) eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), and (3) eq. 12 mcg Selenium/2 mL (eq. 6 mcg Selenium/mL)). Hikma lacks information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of any remaining allegations of this paragraph and therefore denies the same.

15. The use of ARI’s Selenious Acid products is covered by one or more claims of the Asserted Patent.

**ANSWER:** Hikma lacks information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of any remaining allegations of this paragraph and therefore denies the same.

16. ARI is the owner of the ’957 patent, entitled “Trace element compositions, methods of making and use,” which was duly and legally issued on November 26, 2024. A copy of the ’957 patent is attached as Exhibit A.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma admits that on its face, the ’957 patent indicates it was issued on November 26, 2024, and is entitled “Trace element compositions, methods of making

and use.” Hikma admits that a purported copy of the ’957 patent is attached to the complaint as Exhibit A. Hikma also admits that the patent assignment database indicates that the ’957 patent is assigned to ARI. Hikma denies that the ’957 patent was duly and legally issued. Hikma lacks information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of any remaining allegations of this paragraph, and therefore denies the same.

17. The ’957 patent has been listed in connection with ARI’s Selenious Acid products in the FDA’s publication Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations (the “Orange Book”).

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that the ’957 patent is listed in the FDA’s Orange Book in connection with Selenious Acid products. Hikma lacks information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of any remaining allegations of this paragraph, and therefore denies the same.

18. As indicated in the Orange Book, the expiration date for the ’957 patent is July 1, 2041.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that the ’957 patent is presently listed in the FDA’s Orange Book in connection with Selenious Acid products indicating an expiration date of July 1, 2041. Hikma lacks information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of any remaining allegations of this paragraph, and therefore denies the same.

19. On information and belief, Hikma was responsible for preparing the ANDA which contained a Paragraph IV Certification.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that it prepared ANDA No. 217680. At the time Hikma’s ANDA was filed there were no patents listed in the Orange Book for the Selenious Acid products. Hikma later amended its ANDA to include a Paragraph IV Certification to the ’565 patent after that patent was issued. Hikma otherwise denies the allegations in Paragraph 19.

20. By letter dated June 10, 2024 (“the Notice Letter”), Hikma notified ARI that, pursuant to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Hikma had submitted the ANDA with a Paragraph IV Certification to the FDA to seek approval to engage in the commercial manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale, and/or importation of the ANDA Products prior to the expiration of U.S. Patent No. 11,998,565 (“the ’565 patent”), which is at issue in the Related Action.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that Hikma sent ARI a Notice Letter which notified ARI that Hikma filed ANDA No. 217680 seeking approval to engage in the commercial manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale, and/or importation of the ANDA Products. Hikma denies any remaining allegations of Paragraph 20.

21. On information and belief, Hikma submitted the ANDA to the FDA, which contained a Paragraph IV Certification asserting that the ’565 patent will not be infringed by the manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale, or importation of the ANDA Products, or alternatively, that the ’565 patent is invalid.

**ANSWER:** At the time Hikma submitted its ANDA, the ’565 patent had not issued. Hikma amended its ANDA to contain a Paragraph IV Certification to the ’565 patent after it issued. Hikma further states that its Notice Letter included a Detailed Statement that complied with the statutory and regulatory requirements and provided that the claims of the ’565 patent are invalid, unenforceable, and/or will not be infringed by the commercial manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale, or importation of Hikma’s ANDA products.

22. Since ARI received the Notice Letter and filed its complaint against Hikma in the Related Action, the ’957 patent has been listed in connection with ARI’s Selenious Acid products in the Orange Book.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that the Orange Book website indicates that the ’957 patent is listed in connection with the Selenious Acid products and has a submission date of December 3, 2024, which was after ARI received the Notice Letter and filed its complaint against Hikma in the Related Action.

23. On information and belief, the ANDA Products are generic versions of ARI’s



Selenious Acid products ((1) eq. 600 mcg Selenium/10 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), (2) eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), and (3) eq. 12 mcg Selenium/2 mL (eq. 6 mcg Selenium/mL)) product, as their reference listed drugs, containing the same or equivalent ingredients in the same or equivalent amounts.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that the Hikma ANDA Products are generic versions of ARI's Selenious Acid products ((1) eq. 600 mcg Selenium/10 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), (2) eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), and (3) eq. 12 mcg Selenium/2 mL (eq. 6 mcg Selenium/mL)) product. To the extent any further response is required, Hikma denies the allegations of Paragraph 23.

24. In the Notice Letter, Hikma disclosed that the ANDA Products are: Selenious Acid Injection, USP (1) 12 mcg/2 mL (6 mcg/mL) in a single dose vial; (2) 60 mcg/mL in a single dose vial; and (3) 600 mcg/10 mL (60 mcg/mL) in a pharmacy bulk package.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that Hikma disclosed in the Hikma Notice Letter that the ANDA Products are Selenious Acid Injection, USP, (1) 12 mcg/2 mL (6 mcg/1 mL) in a Single Dose Vial; (2) 60 mcg/1 mL in a Single Dose Vial; and (3) 600 mcg/10 mL (60 mcg/1 mL) in a Pharmacy Bulk Package.

25. On information and belief, the ANDA Products contain the same or equivalent ingredients in the same or equivalent amounts as ARI's Selenious Acid products (((1) eq. 600 mcg Selenium/10 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), (2) eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/mL), and (3) eq. 12 mcg Selenium/2 mL (eq. 6 mcg Selenium/mL))).

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that the Hikma ANDA Products are generic versions of ARI's Selenious Acid products ((1) eq. 600 mcg Selenium/10 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/1 mL), (2) eq. 60 mcg Selenium/1 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/1 mL), and (3) eq. 12 mcg Selenium/2 mL (eq. 6 mcg Selenium/1 mL)) product. To the extent any further response is required, Hikma denies the allegations of Paragraph 25.

26. On information and belief, the ANDA Products will feature the same or equivalent chemical and therapeutic properties as ARI's Selenious Acid products.

**ANSWER:** Hikma admits that the Hikma ANDA Products are generic versions of ARI's Selenious Acid products. To the extent any further response is required, Hikma denies the allegations of Paragraph 26.

**COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '957 PATENT**

27. ARI realleges paragraphs 1–26 as if fully set forth herein.

**ANSWER:** To the extent an answer to Paragraph 27 is required, Hikma incorporates by reference its answers to the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

28. Hikma's submission of the ANDA with a Paragraph IV Certification to obtain approval to engage in the commercial manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale and/or importation of the ANDA Product in or into the United States, prior to the expiration of the '957 patent, constitutes direct and indirect infringement of the '957 patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(e)(2)(A), either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma denies the allegations in Paragraph 28.

29. On information and belief, the ANDA Product, if approved by the FDA, will be manufactured, used, offered for sale, sold, and/or imported in or into the United States by Hikma or on its behalf, and will be administered by patients and/or medical practitioners in the United States according to the directions and instructions in the proposed package insert, which will constitute direct infringement by patients and/or medical practitioners of one or more claims of the '957 patent, under 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. On information and belief, the administration of the ANDA Product will occur with Hikma's specific intent and encouragement, and will constitute conduct that Hikma knows or should know will occur. On information and belief, Hikma will actively induce, encourage, aid, and abet that conduct by patients and/or medical practitioners, with knowledge and specific intent that the conduct will be in contravention of ARI's rights under the '957 patent.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma denies the allegations in Paragraph 29.

30. On information and belief, Hikma's manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale, and/or importation of the ANDA Product, once the ANDA with a Paragraph IV Certification is approved by the FDA, would constitute direct infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), induced infringement

under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), and/or contributory infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) of one or more claims of the '957 patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. On information and belief, Hikma intends that the ANDA Product be used by patients and medical professionals. Also, on information and belief, Hikma knows that the ANDA Product are especially made or adapted for use in infringing the '957 patent, and that the ANDA Products are not suitable for substantial non-infringing use.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma denies the allegations in Paragraph 30.

31. ARI will be irreparably harmed if Hikma is permitted to make, use, sell, offer to sell, and/or import the ANDA Products in or into the United States, and is not enjoined from doing so. ARI is entitled to relief provided by 35 U.S.C. §§ 271(e)(4) and/or 283, including an order of this Court that the effective date of approval of the ANDA be a date that is not earlier than the expiration date of the '957 patent, or any later expiration of exclusivity for the '957 patent to which ARI is or becomes entitled, and an injunction against such infringement. ARI does not have an adequate remedy at law.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma denies the allegations in Paragraph 31.

32. Hikma has had knowledge of the '957 patent since at least October 11, 2024, when ARI emailed all defendants in the Related Action to inform them that the '957 patent would issue in due course.

**ANSWER:** This paragraph contains legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent a response is required, while Hikma received an email from the ARI prior to issuance of the '957 patent, Hikma states that on its face, the '957 patent indicates that it issued on November 26, 2024. Hikma otherwise denies the allegations of Paragraph 32.

33. This case is “exceptional,” and ARI is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys’ fees under 35 U.S.C. § 285.

**ANSWER:** Denied.

#### **RESPONSE TO PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

The remainder of ARI’s Complaint recites a prayer for relief for which no response is

required. To the extent a response is required, Hikma denies that ARI is entitled to any remedy or relief.

### **SEPARATE DEFENSES**

Hikma asserts the following defenses without prejudice to the denials in this Answer, and without admitting any allegations of the Complaint not otherwise admitted. Hikma does not assume the burden of proof on any such defenses, except as required by applicable law with respect to the particular defense asserted. Hikma reserves the right to assert other defenses and/or to otherwise supplement this Answer upon discovery of facts or evidence rendering such action appropriate.

### **FIRST DEFENSE**

Each purported claim in the Complaint, in whole or in part, is barred for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

### **SECOND DEFENSE**

The claims of the '957 patent are invalid for failure to comply with the statutory provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code, including without limitation sections 101, 102, 103, and/or 112, or other judicially created bases for invalidity.

### **THIRD DEFENSE**

Hikma does not infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, any valid and enforceable claim of the '957 patent. If the products that are the subject of ANDA No. 217680 were marketed, Hikma would not infringe any valid and enforceable claim of the patents-in-suit.

### **FOURTH DEFENSE**

Hikma has not, does not, and will not induce the infringement of, or contribute to the

infringement of, any valid and enforceable claim of the '957 patent. If the products that are the subject of ANDA No. 217680 were marketed, Hikma would not induce the infringement of, or contribute to the infringement of, any valid and enforceable claim of the patents-in-suit.

#### **FIFTH DEFENSE**

The claims of the '957 patent are barred in whole or in part by the doctrine of prosecution history estoppel, judicial estoppel, and/or other equitable doctrines.

#### **SIXTH DEFENSE**

Hikma's actions in defending this case do not give rise to an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285.

#### **SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Any additional defenses or counterclaims that discovery may reveal.

#### **COUNTERCLAIMS**

For its Counterclaims against American Regent, Inc. ("Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff"), Counterclaim Plaintiff/Defendant Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. ("Hikma" or "Counterclaim Plaintiff/Defendant"), states as follows:

#### **THE PARTIES**

1. On information and belief and as it pled in its Complaint, ARI is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with a principal place of business at 5 Ramsey Road, Shirley, New York 11967.

2. Hikma is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, having a place of business at 200 Connell Drive, 4th Floor, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. These counterclaims arise under the patent laws of the United States and the Declaratory Judgment Act. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over these counterclaims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), 2201, and 2202.

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff on the basis of, *inter alia*, its contacts with New Jersey relating to the subject matter of this action, including having filed suit.

5. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400.

### **BACKGROUND**

6. Upon information and belief, ARI holds approved New Drug Application (“NDA”) No. 209379 for Selenious Acid ((1) eq. 600 mcg Selenium/10 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/1 mL), (2) eq. 60 mcg Selenium/1 mL (eq. 60 mcg Selenium/1 mL), and (3) eq. 12 mcg Selenium/2 mL (eq. 6 mcg Selenium/1 mL)).

7. An NDA must include, among other things, the number of any patent that claims the “drug” or a “method of using [the] drug” for which the NDA was submitted and for which a claim of patent infringement could reasonably be asserted against an authorized party. *See* 21 U.S.C. § 355(b)(1), -(c)(2); 21 C.F.R. § 314.53(b), -(c)(2).

8. Upon approval of the NDA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) publishes patent information for the approved drug in the “Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” commonly known as the “Orange Book.” *See* 21 U.S.C. § 355(j)(7)(A)(iii).

9. U.S. Patent No. 11,998,565 (“the ’565 patent”), entitled “Trace element compositions, methods of making and use,” issued on June 4, 2024.

10. Upon information and belief based upon the United States Patent Office's assignment database, ARI is the assignee of the '565 patent.

11. U.S. Patent No. 12,150,957 ("the '957 patent"), entitled "Trace element compositions, methods of making and use," issued on November 26, 2024.

12. Upon information and belief based upon the United States Patent Office's assignment database, ARI is the assignee of the '957 patent.

13. Hikma submitted Abbreviated New Drug Application ("ANDA") No. 217680 ("the ANDA") to obtain FDA approval to market generic versions of ARI's Selenious Acid Products ("the ANDA Products") prior to issuance of either the '565 or '957 patents. At the time Hikma filed its ANDA, there were no patents listed in the Orange Book for the Selenious Acid products.

14. Upon information and belief, after its issuance, Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff caused the '565 patent to be listed in the Orange Book for NDA No. 209379.

15. Hikma amended its ANDA to add a Paragraph IV Certification to the '565 patent.

16. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 355(j)(2)(B), Hikma notified Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff by letter (the "Hikma Notice Letter") that Hikma had submitted a Paragraph IV Certification for its ANDA with respect to the '565 patent. The Hikma Notice Letter, which is incorporated herein by reference, contained a detailed statement of the factual and legal bases for Hikma Paragraph IV Certification that the claims of the '565 patent are invalid, not infringed, and/or unenforceable.

17. On July 16, 2024, Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff filed *American Regent, Inc. v. Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.*, C.A. No. 24-7803 (D.N.J.) (the "Related Action") alleging infringement of the '565 patent.

18. Upon information and belief, after its issuance, Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff

caused the '957 patent to be listed in the Orange Book for NDA No. 209379.

19. On December 13, 2024, Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff filed this instant lawsuit alleging infringement of the '957 patent.

## **COUNT I**

### **(Declaratory Judgment of Invalidity or Unenforceability of the '957 Patent)**

20. Hikma re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 16 of its Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

21. Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff alleges ownership of the '957 patent and has brought claims against Hikma alleging infringement of the '957 patent.

22. One or more claims of the '957 patent are invalid under one or more provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112, and/or other judicially-created bases for invalidity.

23. There is an actual, substantial, continuing, and justiciable controversy between the parties regarding whether the filing of Hikma's ANDA and/or the commercial marketing of Hikma's ANDA Product infringes, has infringed, and/or will infringe a valid and enforceable claim of the '957 patent.

24. Hikma is entitled to a declaration that all claims of the '957 patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112, and/or other judicially-created bases for invalidity.

## **COUNT II**

### **(Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement of the '957 Patent)**

25. Hikma re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 22 of its Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

26. Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff alleges ownership of the '957 patent and has brought claims against Hikma alleging infringement of the '957 patent.



27. There is an actual, substantial, continuing, and justiciable controversy between the parties regarding whether the filing of Hikma's ANDA and/or the commercial marketing of Hikma's ANDA Product infringe, have infringed, and/or will infringe a valid and enforceable claim of the '957 patent.

28. Hikma has not infringed, contributed to the infringement of, or induced the infringement of any valid and enforceable claim of the '957 patent and is not liable for such infringement.

29. Hikma is entitled to a declaration that the manufacture, use, or sale of Hikma's ANDA Product would not infringe any valid or enforceable claim of the '957 patent.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Hikma respectfully requests judgment in its favor and against Counterclaim Defendant/Plaintiff as follows:

a. Declaring that the filing of Hikma's ANDA No. 217680 ("the ANDA") has not infringed and does not infringe any valid and enforceable claim of the '957 patent;

b. Declaring that the manufacture, use, offer to sell, sale, and/or importation into the United States of the ANDA does not, and would not, if marketed, infringe any valid and enforceable claim of the '957 patent;

c. Declaring that each claim of the '957 patent is invalid;

d. Declaring this an exceptional case in favor of Hikma and awarding its attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285 and/or under all applicable statutes and rules in common law that would be appropriate;

e. Awarding costs and expenses under all applicable statutes and rules in common law that would be appropriate; and

f. Awarding any and all such other relief as the Court determines to be just and proper.

MIDLIGE RICHTER LLC  
*Attorneys for Defendant*  
*Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.*  
By: s/ James S. Richter  
James S. Richter  
jrichter@midlige-richter.com

Dated: January 9, 2025

OF COUNSEL:

C. Kyle Musgrove (*pro hac vice*)  
Cindy Chang (*pro hac vice*)  
GEMINI LAW LLP  
40 W 24th Street, Suite 6N  
New York, NY 10010  
(917) 915-8832  
kmusgrove@geminilaw.com  
cchang@geminilaw.com

**LOCAL CIVIL RULE 11.2 CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 11.2, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any court, or of any pending arbitration or administrative proceeding.

s/ James S. Richter  
James S. Richter

Dated: January 9, 2025

**LOCAL CIVIL RULE 201.1 CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above-captioned matter is not subject to compulsory arbitration in that the parties seek, *inter alia*, declaratory relief in their respective pleadings.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

s/ James S. Richter  
James S. Richter

Dated: January 9, 2025

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned attorney certifies that a copy of Hikma's foregoing Answer, Separate Defenses, and Counterclaims was filed via ECF and served on all counsel of record by electronic mail on January 9, 2025.

s/ James S. Richter  
James S. Richter

Dated: January 9, 2025